



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

June 23, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE CENTERS (RESPONSE TO ITEM 19, AGENDA OF  
MAY 12, 2009)**

On May 12, 2009, acting on a motion by Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Antonovich, your Board directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in coordination with the Internal Services Department (ISD), and in consultation with other County departments, to develop an Environmental Service Center strategy that includes a variety of environmental programmatic components for inclusion in the County's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (Block Grant) Application as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Board's direction requested a work plan to describe the following items:

1. Technical and programmatic services;
2. Possible locations geographically distributed throughout the County, ideally co-located or in close proximity to existing Department of Regional Planning and Department of Public Works Building and Safety field offices;
3. Cost estimates incorporating other potential funding streams;
4. Opportunities for partnership with outside organizations (including utilities, local jurisdictions, educational institutions, and workforce-training centers);
5. Roles and responsibilities of the departments identified above;
6. Staffing, management and implementation recommendations; and

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7. Recommendations on how to sustain the program after the initial grant funding is exhausted.

The remainder of this document describes the strategy developed by the CEO, ISD and other departments for the Environmental Service Centers.

### **1. Technical and programmatic services**

The technical and programmatic services provided by the "Environmental Service Centers" could be very broad and will include all of the suggested programs in the Board's action. One of the County's priorities in developing the Environmental Service Centers is to provide a comprehensive menu of programs. In the Los Angeles County region, there is a need to consolidate the public information and service provision/coordination functions under one source.

The key to providing a variety of these services is to develop a core program that can consistently deliver both energy efficiency savings and greenhouse gas reductions. Most federal, State and utility energy grant programs are, and will be continue to be, heavily tied to obtaining such results. Establishing a program with a physical, community presence that delivers these results will make it easier to incrementally add other environmental programs that do not necessarily focus on energy savings or greenhouse gas reductions. A variety of environmental programs may be included in the County Environmental Service Centers.

The County's Environmental Service Center proposal under its Block Grant application will focus on the following activities:

- Establish a Community Retrofit Program which uses Block Grant funding to benchmark the energy efficiency rating of homes and provide incentives towards the implementation of energy efficiency measures;
- Develop an AB 811 program which would allow the County to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects to be initiated under the Block Grant program;
- Establish the Environmental Service Centers by hiring a contractor(s) to design the incentive program, market the services, provide outreach to unincorporated communities, and administer the programs; and
- Utilize the Environmental Service Centers to provide education, training, outreach, and incentives to implement the County's Green Building Ordinance.

The primary goal of the Environmental Service Centers is to provide comprehensive energy and environmental programs to County constituents through a combination of internet-based marketing and outreach, development of new website(s) portal which links to other County environmental webpages and documents, information that can be packaged and presented at various County community events, and field offices that can provide face-to-face education and assistance. An additional goal is to develop a financial model under which the Environmental Service Centers can become self-sustaining. This appears to be feasible under AB 811 and through the acquisition of additional grants, as described later in this report.

**2. Possible locations geographically distributed throughout the County, ideally co-located or in close proximity to existing Department of Regional Planning and Department of Public Works Building and Safety field offices.**

Discussion between the CEO, ISD, Regional Planning and Public Works confirmed that possible locations for the offices could include Regional Planning and Building and Safety field offices, with the exception of those currently housed in City Halls. That list is included as an attachment.

Other County venues (e.g., parks, libraries) will be considered as locations for hosted events or information, such as kiosks. Given the breadth of County unincorporated areas, it is likely not feasible that the field offices will be staffed full time. Instead, pre-determined hours and days of the week will be established for staff or contractor support at these venues. Permanent County staff at these locations will also be trained on the services and programs the Environmental Service Centers will offer. The number of physical County "centers" will be determined from the final Block Grant budget pending final cost proposals for implementing and administering them.

**3. Cost estimates incorporating other potential funding streams.**

Using models of other, similar Environmental Service Centers in other jurisdictions, it is estimated that implementing and managing the Environmental Service Centers with a presence in each Supervisorial District could cost roughly \$1 million per year. This includes staff, administration, office costs (not including rent), implementation of energy projects, marketing and outreach, and public events.

ISD is engaged in the following activities to secure mid- to long-term, sustainable financing for the Environmental Service Centers, including the activities listed below. All of these activities have been generally included in the County's federal and State legislative agendas and have been discussed with CEO Intergovernmental Relations Office staff.

- Work with utilities to obtain funding from existing utility programs and through our Local Government Partnership;
- Lobby federal legislators to continue funding the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (preferably each year);
- Lobby federal legislators to provide funding for local government programs using revenues under a federal Cap & Trade regime (a Cap & Trade regime would govern a national greenhouse gas market for certifying and regulating mandated emissions reductions);
- Lobby State regulatory agencies to provide the same funding mentioned above under a western region or California Cap & Trade market;
- Explore additional climate change and greenhouse gas reduction grant programs; and
- Pursue legislation to directly fund local government programs out of State investor-owned utility energy efficiency funds traditionally allocated to utilities.

In addition, AB 811 programs allow local government implementers to include operating and administrative costs within the financing that they offer to private building owners. Although not all of the cost of the Environmental Service Centers would be included in this financing charge, a portion of it could be included given that the Environmental Service Centers would provide technical support, education and outreach, and administration of certain parts of an AB 811 program. These details will be explored as the County develops the details of its AB 811 program.

**4. Opportunities for partnership with outside organizations (including utilities, cities, other local jurisdictions, educational institutions, and workforce-training centers).**

Partnering opportunities provide an ideal mechanism for reducing the costs of providing these services to all County constituents. As an example, ISD is discussing the possibility of developing a County partnership with the South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC), an environmental service center organization run by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments for its member cities. Partnership elements may include:

- The County unincorporated areas located nearby to the SBESC office could be included in its programs and services.

- The SBESC cities could participate in the programs being developed by the County for the Environmental Service Centers, especially the energy efficiency incentives and the AB 811 program.

The County's Councils of Governments (COGs) are ideal partners for leveraging existing resources such as the County's Environmental Service Centers and any COGs' energy/environmental services. Under the Block Grant program, the County will discuss partnering opportunities with the other COGs. ISD is also in discussions with the City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department regarding possible partnerships on Environmental Service Centers located within the City.

The County also intends to investigate workforce training programs in collaboration with the County Workforce Investment Board and possibly Los Angeles Trade Tech Community College. The potential for regional green job training was also presented to the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation's Green Task Force during a June 16, 2009, presentation on AB 811 and its potential, regional economic impact.

After submittal of the Block Grant application, the Energy and Environmental Policy Team will initiate a Green Jobs committee to consist of internal County representatives, the County Workforce Investment Board, L.A. Trade Tech College, and other interested parties for implementation into the County's Block Grant program. Developing a regional green jobs creation and training program is also a priority activity of the Los Angeles Regional Sustainability Collaborative.

**5. Roles and responsibilities of the Departments identified above.**

A number of departments would have key roles in the implementation and oversight over County Environmental Service Centers; these roles were clarified in meetings with the CEO and the Energy and Environmental Policy Team when the Environmental Service Centers scope was investigated. These roles are described below:

Department	Service Center Role
Internal Services Department (ISD)	Designated by the CEO to administer the Block Grant and other energy related grants that support the Service Center program.
Public Works (DPW)	Environmental Service Centers to co-locate in Building & Safety field offices. DPW to use Environmental Service Centers to promote the County's Green Building Ordinance.

	<p>DPW to facilitate energy efficiency and renewable projects permitted under AB 811.</p> <p>DPW to coordinate its Environmental Programs events with other programs.</p>
Regional Planning (DRP)	<p>DRP to use Environmental Service Centers to promote the County's Green Building Ordinance.</p> <p>DRP to coordinate community green events with Environmental Service Centers programs.</p>
Parks and Recreation, Public Library, Beaches and Harbors, Community Development Commission.	<p>These departments to promote Environmental Service Center programs at their venues (e.g.; through kiosks).</p> <p>These departments to coordinate community green events with Environmental Service Centers programs.</p>

**6. Staffing, management and implementation recommendations.**

During the Block Grant Program period (ending approximately September 2011), we envision that the Environmental Service Centers will be staffed and managed by a contractor. We will require that the potential contractor be experienced in designing, implementing and administering community energy and environmental programs. Potential candidates include a variety of companies that help design and implement utility energy programs. These contractors are adept at outreach and targeting specific needs of local communities and typically hire resources from those communities.

The contractor will design the Environmental Service Centers program to include Board's direction requiring:

- Centralization of all County resources and services at [www.lacounty.green.gov](http://www.lacounty.green.gov) (or other website);
- Development of a "booth in a box" program where information and services can be promoted at County-sponsored fairs or community events; and
- "Brick and mortar" service centers strategically located around the County utilizing existing County facilities, e.g. Building and Safety field offices.

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
June 23, 2009  
Page 7

In addition, the contractor will be responsible for achieving the goals of the Environmental Service Centers and the County's Block Grant application, subcontracting with appropriate resources, and providing necessary follow-up reporting.

**7. Recommendations on how to sustain the program after the initial grant funding is exhausted.**

In addition to the prior discussion of potential funding sources, this Office will explore:

- Developing additional federal and State legislative and regulatory initiatives to allocate funding for local government programs;
- Engaging the County's local utilities at their highest levels to advocate for a more active role in supporting this significant effort. ISD and other department staff have engaged the utilities at appropriate levels, but a higher profile effort may be required to reach utilities executives and create needed partnerships; and
- Expanding monitoring of environmental legislation. Given the national, regional, and local landscape regarding the environment and greenhouse gases, the County must remain abreast of ongoing legislative and regulatory activities and available funding opportunities. These activities and opportunities cover a wide range of issues: energy, water, renewable resources, green buildings, fleet management, waste reduction, transportation, and regional planning. CEO Intergovernmental Affairs reported, at one point, nearly 400 climate change bills were proposed in the current legislative session. In addition, a myriad of regulatory proceedings occur to implement climate change bills such as AB 32, SB 375, SB 97, etc.

If you have any questions please contact Ellen Sandt at (213) 974-1186, or [esandt@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:esandt@ceo.lacounty.gov).

WTF:EFS:  
LS:TT:ef

Attachment

c: Department of Beaches and Harbors  
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
Community Development Commission  
Internal Services Department  
Public Library  
Department of Public Works  
Department of Regional Planning

